REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-21, and 23-35, are all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected on prior art grounds. Applicants respectfully traverse these objections/rejections based on the following discussion.

1. The Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yeager (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,190). Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Yeager in view of Sanschagrin et al., hereinafter "Sanschagrin" (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,540). Claims 7, 15, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Yeager in view of Della-Libera et al., hereinafter "Della-Libera" (U.S. Publication No.2003/0023609). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeager in view of Guthery (U.S. Patent No. 6,567,915). Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeager in view of Smith et al., hereinafter "Smith," (U.S. Publication No. US2002/0167543). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

A. The Rejection Based on Yeager

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Yeager, and the other prior art references of record, do not teach or suggest the claimed process of "saving changes of data contained in said worksheet grid form in a database of said server" "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data" as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Further, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a process of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the

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processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" as defined by newly added claim 28. Thus, as explained in greater detail below, it is Applicants position that none of the prior art of record teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28.

More specifically, Yeager provides the ability to perform updates/inserts/deletes for only one row at a time via the edit panel shown in Figure 7 of Yeager. The claimed invention allows the commit of multiple rows at once (hundreds of thousands of rows, if desired) because the claimed invention updates the database using a worksheet "grid" form that "comprises multiple rows of data." Yeager provides the ability to import a large number of rows at a time, as does the claimed invention. However, the claimed invention enables users to make a variety of changes to their downloaded data, including imports as well as updates, inserts, and deletes, to form a cohesive unit on their local copy of data. The claimed invention can then choose to commit all of these changes multiple rows at once. Yeager, on the other hand, forces the imports to be processed as a separate, standalone unit as shown by Figure 7 of Yeager.

Further, Yeager does not address the problem of handling data errors that can occur when the server data has changed after the user has downloaded a copy to the local workstation. To the contrary, as defined by newly added claim 28, the invention includes a step of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" to address the handling of data errors. There are numerous conflicts that can occur, to which the end user often wants to apply a set of rules for handling these conflicts. Yeager provides no method for handling data conflicts. The claimed invention on the other hand, provides methods in the form of "Commit Rules", which are central to the purpose and success of the invention. Yeager does not address the possibility of dynamically revising the update/insert/delete in the event of security violations, to utilize security views that may exist on the system.

Thus, as shown above, Yeager does not teach or suggest the claimed process of "saving changes of data contained in said worksheet grid form in a database of said server" "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data" as defined

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by independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Nor does Yeager teach or suggest a process of "applying commit rule options, during said saving of said changes of data contained in said worksheet grid, to choose a method by which errors are handled during the processing of database updates, deletes, and inserts" as defined by newly added claimed 28. Thus, as explained in greater detail below, it is Applicants position that none of the prior art of record teach or suggest the invention defined by independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 28. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Yeager does not anticipate the invention defined by independent claims 1, 10, or 19 and similarly does not anticipate newly added claim 28. Further, dependent claims 2-3, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17, 20, and 21 are similarly patentable, not only because they depend from a patentable independent claim, but also because of the additional features of the invention they define. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdrawn this rejection.

B.   The Rejection Based on Yeager in view of Sanschagrin

The Sanschagrin reference is utilized for disclosing that the packaging of the worksheet grid can produce reports capable of summarizing information by selected groups such as comparison reports on the delta between two similarly structured tables. However, Sanschagrin is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is missed by Yeager as explained above. More specifically, Sanschagrin omits any teaching of "saving changes of data contained in said worksheet grid form in a database of said server" "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data" as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager and Sanschagrin. Dependent claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are patentable because they depend from a patentable independent claim and also because of the features each of these dependent claims define. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

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C.   The Rejection Based on Yeager in view of Della-Libera

The Della-Libera reference is utilized for disclosing cascaded mass changes for the purpose of merging and/or copying rows. However, Della-Libera is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is missed by Yeager as explained above. More specifically, Della-Libera omits any teaching of "saving changes of data contained in said worksheet grid form in a database of said server" "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data" as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager and Della-Libera. Dependent claims 7, 15, and 25 are patentable because they depend from a patentable independent claim and also because of the features each of these dependent claims define. Therefore, once again, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

D.   The Rejection Based on Yeager and Guthery

The Guthery reference is utilized for disclosing partitioning the database into private and public databases. However, Guthery is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is omitted by Yeager as explained above. More specifically, Guthery does not "saving changes of data contained in said worksheet grid form in a database of said server" "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data" as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager and Guthery. Dependent claim 18 is patentable because it depends from a patentable independent claim and also because of the features claim 18 defines. Therefore, once again, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

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E.   The Rejection Based on Yeager and Smith

The Smith reference is utilized for disclosing a JAVA programming language. However, Smith is not referred to for teaching or suggesting (and does not teach or suggest) the feature that is left out by Yeager as explained above. More specifically, Smith skips any teaching of "saving changes of data contained in said worksheet grid form in a database of said server" "wherein said worksheet grid form comprises multiple rows of data" as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 19. Therefore, it is Applicants' position that independent claims 1, 10, and 19 are patentable over the proposed combination of Yeager and Smith. Further, dependent claim 27 is patentable because it depends from a patentable independent claim and also because of the features claim 27 defines. Therefore, once again, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.
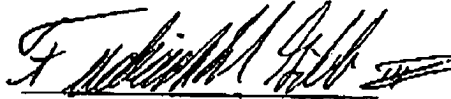
II.   Formal Matters and Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-21, and 23-35, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

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Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 11/16/04

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